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In reply to: Final Office Action mailed August 10, 2007

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-50 (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A method for a virtual trade financial framework, comprising the steps of:

establishing an agreement between a plurality of buyers and a plurality of sellers using an enterprise for trading purposes, including: (a) submitting a terms form to the plurality of buyers through the enterprise, the terms form providing details on products or services available from the plurality of sellers in order to prompt the submission of bids at the enterprise on the products or services; (b) receiving the bids at the enterprise from the buyers utilizing a network; (c) categorizing the bids based on a predetermined criteria; (d) displaying the categorized bids to the sellers with the enterprise utilizing the network; (e) receiving offers at the enterprise from the sellers in response to the bids utilizing the network; (f) displaying the offers to the buyers with the enterprise; and (g) closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers at the enterprise utilizing the network;

providing over the network and through the enterprise a forum for negotiation between the buyers and the sellers of the offer and of specific details of the products and services on the terms form;

receiving the terms form at the enterprise, the terms form indicating at least one of terms and conditions of ~~at least one of the buyers;~~

~~facilitating iterative negotiation between the buyers and the sellers through the enterprise of the offer and of specific details of the products and services on the terms form;~~

checking a credit of ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer with a third party based on the terms form prior to opening a letter of credit and providing results to the enterprise;

providing over the network from the enterprise to at least one of the sellers with the terms form and an indication as to available credit of ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer;

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receiving from at least one of the sellers a response to the terms form and indication at the enterprise;
forwarding from the enterprise a response of at least one of the sellers to ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer using the network;
forwarding to the enterprise a finalized agreement of the buyer and one of the sellers;
receiving at the enterprise initiation and payment documents utilizing the network;
receiving at the enterprise secondary documents selected from the group consisting of an insurance certificate, inspection certificate, certificate of origin, invoice/declaration, counselor's invoice, sanction and boycott declaration, packing list, weight list, lab test report, and beneficiary certificate;
sending the secondary documents from the enterprise directly to a buyer's bank to be checked, wherein ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer accesses the secondary documents via the bank; and
sending payment from the buyer's bank to a seller's bank directly through the enterprise.

52. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 51, and further comprising the step of authenticating an identity of the plurality of buyers prior to submitting the terms form thereto.

53. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 52, wherein the identity is authenticated by requiring the submission of an identifier and a password.

54. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 51, wherein the step of categorizing the bids includes ranking or segmenting the bids.

55. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 51, wherein the predetermined criteria includes at least one of geography and product category.

56. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 51, wherein the bids and offers are displayed on a site on the network.

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57. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 51, and further comprising the step of storing, indexing, and matching the secondary documents.

58. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 51, wherein the initiation and payment documents include a combined purchase order proforma invoice.

59. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 51, and further comprising the step of requesting the seller to become a registered member of the framework.

60. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 51, and further comprising the step of finalizing the agreement after forwarding the response of the seller to the buyer.

61. (Currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for a virtual trade financial framework, comprising:

a code segment for establishing an agreement between a plurality of buyers and a plurality of sellers using an enterprise for trading purposes, including: (a) a code segment for submitting a terms form to the plurality of buyers through the enterprise, the terms form providing details on products or services available from the plurality of sellers in order to prompt the submission of bids on the products or services; (b) a code segment for receiving the bids at the enterprise from the buyers utilizing a network; (c) a code segment for categorizing the bids based on a predetermined criteria; (d) a code segment for displaying the categorized bids to the sellers with the enterprise utilizing the network; (e) a code segment for receiving offers at the enterprise from the sellers in response to the bids utilizing the network; (f) a code segment for displaying the offers to the buyers with the enterprise; and (g) a code segment for closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers at the enterprise utilizing the network;

a code segment for providing over the network and through the enterprise a forum for negotiation between the buyers and the sellers of the offer and of specific details of the products and services on the terms form;

a code segment for receiving the terms form at the enterprise, the terms form indicating at least one of terms and conditions of at least one of the buyers;

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~~a code segment for facilitating iterative negotiation between the buyers and the sellers through the enterprise of the offer and of specific details of the products and services on the terms form;~~

a code segment for checking a credit of ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer with a third party based on the terms form and providing results to the enterprise;

a code segment for providing over the network from the enterprise to at least one of the sellers with the terms form and an indication as to available credit of ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer;

a code segment for receiving from at least one of the sellers a response to the terms form and indication at the enterprise;

a code segment for forwarding from the enterprise a response of at least one of the sellers to ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer using the network;

a code segment for receiving at the enterprise initiation and payment documents utilizing the network;

a code segment for forwarding to the enterprise a finalize agreement of the buyer and one of the sellers;

a code segment for receiving at the enterprise secondary documents selected from the group consisting of an insurance certificate, inspection certificate, certificate of origin, invoice/declaration, counselor's invoice, sanction and boycott declaration, packing list, weight list, lab test report, and beneficiary certificate;

a code segment for sending the secondary documents from the enterprise directly to a buyer's bank to be checked, wherein ~~at least one of the buyers~~ buyer accesses the secondary documents via the bank; and

sending payment from the buyer's bank to a seller's bank directly through the enterprise.

62. (previously presented) A computer program as recited in claim 61, and further comprising a code segment for authenticating an identity of the plurality of buyers prior to submitting the form thereto.

63. (previously presented) A computer program as recited in claim 62, wherein the identity is authenticated by requiring the submission of an identifier and a password.

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64. (previously presented) A computer program as recited in claim 61, wherein the code segment for categorizing the bids includes ranking or segmenting the bids.

65. (previously presented) A computer program as recited in claim 61, wherein the predetermined criteria includes at least one of geography and product category.

66. (previously presented) A computer program as recited in claim 61, wherein the bids and offers are displayed on a site on the network.

67. (previously presented) The computer program as recited in claim 61, and further comprising a code segment for storing, indexing and matching the secondary documents.

68. (previously presented) The computer program as recited in claim 61, wherein the initiation and payment documents include a combined purchase order proforma invoice.

69. (previously presented) The computer program as recited in claim 61, and further comprising a code segment for requesting the seller to become a registered member of the framework.

70. (previously presented) The computer program as recited in claim 61, and further comprising a code segment for finalizing the agreement after forwarding the response of the seller to the buyer.

71. (Currently amended) A system for a virtual trade financial framework, comprising:
logic for establishing an agreement between a plurality of buyers and a plurality of sellers using an enterprise for trading purposes, wherein the logic for establishing the agreement includes initiating bidding, comprising: (a) logic for submitting a terms form to the plurality of buyers through the enterprise, the terms form providing details on products or services available from the plurality of sellers in order to prompt the submission of bids on the products or services; (b) logic for receiving the bids at the enterprise from the buyers utilizing a network; (c) logic for categorizing the bids based on a predetermined criteria; (d) logic for displaying the categorized bids to the sellers with the enterprise utilizing the network; (e) logic for receiving offers

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at the enterprise from the sellers in response to the bids utilizing the network; (f) logic for displaying the offers to the buyers with the enterprise; and (g) logic for closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers at the enterprise utilizing the network;

logic for providing over the network and through the enterprise a forum for negotiation between the buyers and the sellers of the offer and of specific details of the products and services on the terms form;

logic for receiving the terms form at the enterprise, the terms form indicating at least one of terms and conditions of ~~at least one of the buyers;~~

~~logic for facilitating iterative negotiation between the buyers and the sellers through the enterprise of the offer and of specific details of the products and services on the terms form;~~

logic for checking a credit of ~~least one of the buyers~~ buyer with a third party based on the terms form and providing results to the enterprise;

logic for providing over the network from the enterprise at least one of the sellers with the terms form and an indication as to available credit of ~~least one of the buyers~~ buyer;

logic for receiving from least one of the sellers a response to the terms form and indication at the enterprise;

logic for forwarding from the enterprise a response of least one of the sellers to ~~least one of the buyers~~ buyer using the network;

logic for forwarding to the enterprise a finalized agreement of the buyer and one of the sellers;

logic for receiving at the enterprise initiation and payment documents utilizing the network;

logic for receiving at the enterprise secondary documents selected from the group consisting of an insurance certificate, inspection certificate, certificate of origin, invoice/declaration, counselor's invoice, sanction and boycott declaration, packing list, weight list, lab test report, and beneficiary certificate;

logic for sending the secondary documents from the enterprise directly to a buyer's bank to be checked, wherein ~~least one of the buyers~~ buyer accesses the secondary documents via the bank; and

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sending payment from the buyer's bank to a seller's bank directly through the enterprise.

72. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 71, and further comprising logic for authenticating an identity of the plurality of buyers prior to submitting the form thereto.

73. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 72, wherein the identity is authenticated by requiring the submission of an identifier and a password.

74. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 71, wherein the logic for categorizing the bids includes ranking or segmenting the bids.

75. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 71, wherein the predetermined criteria includes at least one of geography and product category.

76. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 71, wherein the bids and offers are displayed on a site on the network.

77. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 71, and further comprising logic for storing, indexing and matching the secondary documents.

78. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 71, wherein the initiation and payment documents include a combined purchase order proforma invoice.

79. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 71, and further comprising logic for requesting the seller to become a registered member of the framework.

80. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 71, and further comprising logic for finalizing the agreement after forwarding the response of the seller to the buyer.